

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/10571
21 March 1972
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: CHINESE, ENGLISH,
FRENCH, RUSSIAN
AND SPANISH



LETTER DATED 21 MARCH 1972 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN PURSUANCE OF SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 253 (1968) ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 314 (1972), the Committee established in pursuance of Security Council resolution 253 (1968) met on 13, 15 and 16 March 1972 (64th, 65th and 66th meetings).

At the 64th meeting, the representative of Somalia introduced a proposal aiming at replacing by a one-year-term chairmanship the present system of rotating chairmanship, which was established on 30 September 1970, when the Committee was enlarged to include representatives of all members of the Security Council and the President of the Security Council issued a note (S/9951, which stated, inter alia:

"It was further agreed that the chairmanship of the Committee should rotate every month in the English alphabetical order according to the Presidency of the Security Council".

In the course of the Committee's debate, the Somali proposal was supported by the following eight members: Argentina, China, Guinea, India, Panama, Sudan, the USSR and Yugoslavia. These delegations felt that the proposal was essential for increasing the effectiveness of the Committee by providing it with additional continuity in the direction and follow-up of its work, which was of a specific and continuing nature. The proposed procedure would also be in line with the practice followed by other United Nations bodies, including the Security Council Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Namibia. It was not intended to reflect in any way on any Chairman of the Committee. It was an urgent proposal and required immediate action to facilitate the Committee's work from the outset.

Other members referred to the difficulties which they had with this proposal and, in particular, expressed the opinion that it would involve a departure from the normal practice of Security Council committees and would not increase the effectiveness of the Committee's work. In the opinion of some, it would constitute a lack of confidence in some of the past and future Chairmen of the Committee. Some of these members suggested that the proposal and the divergent views on it, instead of being treated separately, could be included in the report

which the Committee had been requested to submit to the Security Council by 15 April 1972, together with other proposals for increasing the effectiveness of the Committee's work and that, meanwhile, the Committee should proceed with its pending work on the present basis.

However, the United Kingdom representative offered to provide, in the immediate future, for the continuity of chairmanship envisaged by the Somali proposal by waiving the right to the chairmanship at the beginning of April so as to allow the current Chairman to continue in the chair until the report to the Security Council had been completed.

A majority of those who favoured the Somali proposal did not deem the United Kingdom proposal as meeting the requirements of the situation because they felt that the need for action on their proposal existed in the context of the continuing work of the Committee and not only for the interim purpose of completing the report.

Taking into account the different positions taken on the above matter by the members of the Committee, most members of the Committee, without objection from the remainder, have requested me, and I regard it as my duty, urgently to inform you of this situation for the attention of the Security Council members.

Meanwhile, the Committee has decided to proceed with its work without prejudice to the positions expressed by members.

(Signed) R. OVINNIKOV
Chairman
Committee established in pursuance of
Security Council resolution 253 (1968)